

## Welcome to the North West Kent FHS mid January 2024 enews.

Although the Society appears to be thriving, given our fantastic quarterly journal - and the wealth of Talks, Workshops and Discussion group we arrange - we are desperately short of volunteers.

Our very small number of volunteers have been covering more than one role each for some time and cannot continue doing that.

Even if you could only offer a few hours a month on an ad hoc basis that would help. If you use a computer, we can, to an extent, fit the role to suit the volunteer.

Please contact Mike Weeks on [publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@nwkfhs.org.uk) if you would like to find out more how you could help to keep the Society operating.

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### **Dartford Branch February Talk: *British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich with Sue Sauter***

**Saturday 3 February 2024: Doors Open 9.45am Talk starts 10.30am  
Dartford Science and Technology College, Heath Lane, Dartford Kent DA1 2LY**

Sue Sauter, an ex-midwife and Governor of the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, will trace the history of the pre-NHS maternity home and midwifery school.

It started in 1905 with 8 beds and home visits, went through several moves, was bombed during the war, joined the NHS and established one of the Country's first premature baby units before closing in 1984.

At least one of our members was born there and there are surely some more.

The talks venue has a large, free car park but it is shared with other users and can be busy at times.

No booking, just turn up.

Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

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### **Sevenoaks Branch February Talk: *From Castle to Cardboard, Discovering the History of Eynsford Castle with Rod Shelton***

**Saturday 10 February 2024 Doors open 10.45am meeting starts 11am  
Otford Village Memorial Hall 28A High Street, Otford, Kent TN14 5PQ**

#### **About the speaker:**

Rod Shelton is an author, artist and model-maker. He has lived in Otford for 25 years and is active in village matters. Rod is the local historian and chairs the Otford Society. He was a London advertising copy writer; then ran his own commercial film company.

Rod specialises in reproducing homes of historical interest back to the period in which they were first built. This takes much research and reference as well as a fair amount of calculation. His particular interest is in the life of the people who lived there at that time. A large selection of his models of featured places and homes in the Darent Valley are on permanent display at Lullingstone Castle.

## **About the talk:**

In this talk, Rod demonstrates and tells of the origins of the castle and how it then evolved over the period to reach its heyday in the 1100s. It tells the story of the influential de Eynsford family and their involvement in the Barons' revolt which led to the fall of Rochester Castle and the loss of Eynsford Castle to King John.

No booking, just turn up. Free to members. A donation towards hall hire and speaker fee is appreciated from visitors.

There is a large public car park (payment required) adjacent to the hall but it can be busy.

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## **ZOOM Talk with David Cufley** **14 February 7.30pm**

***Sevenoaks to Swanley Railway and the Eynsford Viaduct. Includes navvies and railway worker families.***

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-talks/zoom-talk-sevenoaks-to-swanley-railway-and-the-eynsford-viaduct-with-david-cufley-includes-navvies-and-railway-worker-families>

The railway brickfield at Eynsford provided bricks for the Viaduct and other structures on the line to Sevenoaks.

Thomas Crampton, the railway contractor, became the master brickmaker at the brickfield near the Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks.

These brick railway structures changed the rural settings and provided employment for the labouring workers and their families. Temporary Huts and Shants were built for their accommodation during construction.

The landscape was changed by the embankments, tunnels and cuttings needed to form the railway.

After the completion of the railway, where a siding had been constructed for the railway brickfield it created a new manufactory.

The railway provided access to new markets more than the horse and cart of a rural brickfield could reach. Most of the Navvies and Labourers moved on and the temporary housing was removed in most cases.

No booking. Free to Society members and non members alike.

The Zoom link will be added to the weblink above, nearer the date. Log in from 7.15pm and enjoy chat with other participants before the talk starts.

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## **Workshops, Special Interest and Discussion Groups - for Members Only**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings>

There are dozens of Workshops and Discussion Groups via Zoom to cater for members who cannot get to our Library - which is the venue, on Wednesdays, for our in person workshops.

The wealth of expertise amongst the Society members who volunteer to lead these groups is amazing. I wonder if other Societies put on this number of training sessions for their members.

**And membership of our Society is only £10 a year and expires 31 December, so to benefit from a full year of membership and access to these workshops, buy soon!** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/about/membership/our-membership/#options>

If any Society members missed a workshop which they would have liked to attend, or it filled up, see here for videos of some past workshops: <https://nwkhfs.org.uk/events/workshops/past-zoom-workshop-videos>

Note the above link will only work for Society members logged into the website.

## **Attending Workshops and Discussion Groups**

### **Face to face Groups at the Library**

These must be booked individually - the website link explains how to reserve your place. This is essential as numbers have to be kept to ten due to space restrictions.

### **Zoom Groups**

These do not have to be booked individually, but you do need to register in order to be sent the Zoom link. The website link for each Zoom group explains how you register.

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**Many, many thanks to our volunteer workshop coordinator for arranging our exciting programme of workshops, and to the workshop leaders who all give their time freely.**

**Society Members, click on the workshop website links below which will explain how to join the workshop or discussion group.**

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**17 January 10.30am LIBRARY DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-discussion-group-on-dna-and-general-family-history-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard>

**17 January 7.30pm ZOOM Workshop: Settlement, Examinations and Removal Orders with David Cufley** <https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop-settlement-examinations-and-removal-orders-with-david-cufley>

**24 January 10.30am ZOOM DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-18>

**31 January 7.30pm ZOOM Workshop: Breaking Down Brick Walls with David Cufley**  
(If you will be attending, please submit ancestral brick walls by 17 January to David Cufley via [workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkhfs.org.uk) )

<https://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-workshop/zoom-workshop->

[breaking-down-brick-walls-with-david-cufley](#)

**7 February 10.30am LIBRARY Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard: Topic: The Scottish Diaspora and its impact on our families.**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-scottish-interests-discussion-group-with-pam-goddard>

**7 February 10.30am ZOOM Discussion Group with Ann Clarke: Topic: Kismet, Serendipity or gut feel - how have they helped you find an ancestor.**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-with-ann-clarke-kismet-serendipity-or-gut-feel-how-have-they-helped-you-find-an-ancestor>

**14 February 10.30am LIBRARY DNA and General Family History Discussion Group with Jacki Ellis and Pam Goddard**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/discussion-group/library-dna-and-general-family-history-discussion-group-with-jacki-ellis-and-pam-goddard>

**21 February 10.30am ZOOM DNA Discussion group with Laura Lincoln**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-dna-discussion-group-with-laura-lincoln-15>

**28 February 10.30am LIBRARY Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/future-workshops/library-writing-group-with-pauline-heathcote-4>

**28 February 2.30pm ZOOM Discussion Group with David Cufley**

<https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/events/overview/all-upcoming-meetings/zoom-discussion-group/zoom-discussion-group-lets-talk-family-history-with-david-cufley-this-is-a-session-when-you-can-talk-about-family-history-in-a-similar-manner-to-the-coffee-breaks-at-the-library>

This is a chance to ask about terms and words seen in documents or used by other historians and what they mean and how they influence your research.

The session can also be used to ask '*how do I do that?*' and get tips from other members who have perhaps done similar research before.

A totally unscripted session and all attendees will have the opportunity to ask their questions and contribute to helping each other. It's a free-flowing wander through aspects of family history research, so we have no idea where the discussions will lead.

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**Society Library:** The Society Library is open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm for members to do their own research, socialise, participate in library based workshops and discussion groups and receive help from the library volunteers.

You can use the library's PCs to access Ancestry - and FindMyPast which currently includes access to the 1921 census. We suggest joining Kent Libraries as you can then access these websites from your own device whilst in the library which eases pressure on the demand for library PCs.

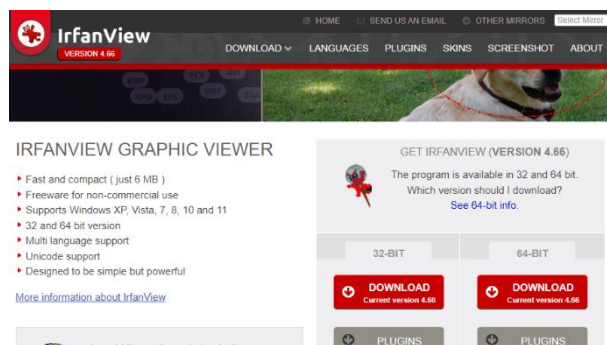
Non members, on Wednesdays you can join the Society at the library.

80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley Kent DA5 2EE Free parking in nearby side roads.

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## Other Genealogy News

### Free (for non Commercial use) Graphics Editing Program



Robert Sear, one of our members, wants to let other enews readers know about this useful free program:

*My favourite graphics editing program is Irfanview VERSION 4.66 <https://www.irfanview.com>*

*The latest upgrade has a new feature that I find very useful*

*Irfanview is a small fast free program that I use to crop, label and resize images such as census images and photos for use in my family tree research I can load the program, crop a census image, label it and save and exit before a program such as Photoshop is even loaded.*

*The new feature allows rotation by 0.1 of a degree instead of the previous 1 degree.*

*If you have an eye for perfection, this makes a big difference*

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### Luddesdown Manor Fair - Volunteer Guide Requested for 6 May 2024

<https://www.discovergravesham.co.uk/luddesdown/luddesdown.html>

Cristina Alves, Farm and Conservation Assistant at MDCV.UK Vineyard Farms Ltd is looking for assistance and wonders if any readers can help:

*Hello, I work for the vineyard that owns the manor. I am part of the wildlife conservation team here on site. One of my job roles is to do with events.*

*Normally it is around wildlife, plants, invertebrates etc; but I am trying to organise a May Fair event alongside the Luddesdown Fete and wanted to offer tours of the manor house and garden. I only know basics about the house, and I thought it might be nice to have a volunteer who is more knowledgeable,*

who can talk about history of area, the architecture of that period and so on.

The tour will be charged for, and all money will be going to a charity.

So in summary, I would like someone who is familiar with the history of Luddesdown Manor and the architecture of the period to act as a guide for tours of the house at our Fair on Public Holiday Monday 6 May 2024.

People can reach me on this email or the phone number:

[cristina.alves@mdcvuk.com](mailto:cristina.alves@mdcvuk.com)

Mobile: 07508 249 775

Thank you very much for your help. Kind Regards, Cristina

**Please contact Cristina direct if you would like to know more or can help.**

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**Interesting information about [freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk)**

The FreeBMD Database was last updated on Friday 22 Dec 2023 and currently contains 293,147,074 distinct records (391,708,902 total records).

On Thu 11 Jan 2024 FreeBMD users did 144,726 searches.

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**Items for the 1 February 2024 enews should please reach me as soon as possible, and by 28 January 2024 latest.**

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*I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them. Please email me at [enews@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:enews@nwkfhs.org.uk) with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.*

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Click on our other links     <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/blog>     [Facebook](#)     [Flickr](#)     <https://twitter.com/nwkfhs>  
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*I am a volunteer creating this e-news in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next edition.*

*Please email me if there's anything you want to say about enews.*

*Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.*

Stella Eames, Editor [enews@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:enews@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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